

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re **NATIONAL PHASE** Application of)
Martin CALDWELL et al) Attn: US/DO/EO
International Application No. PCT/IE00/00032)
International Filing Date: March 20, 2000)
For: A SURGICAL ACCESS DEVICE) Date: September 18, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please preliminarily amend the subject application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please note, the amended claims are presented below in their amended form. Further, as an Attachment to the Amendment the amendments to the claims are outlined using the conventional method of bracketing and underlining.

4. (AMENDED) A surgical device as claimed in Claim 1, in which the fixing means is provided by a proximal ring for engaging with a patient's skin.

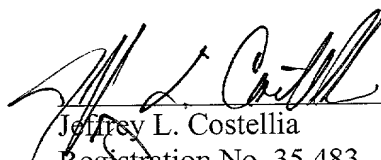
6. (AMENDED) A surgical device as claimed in Claim 1, in which the sealing means is provided by an inflatable first seal for engaging and retracting the incision and a second inflatable seal for sealing the lumen of the tube or sleeve bore.

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to correct the improper multiple dependencies and to place them in better condition for examination.

Examination on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

4. (AMENDED) A surgical device as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] Claim 1, in which the fixing means is provided by a proximal ring for engaging with a patient's skin.

6. (AMENDED) A surgical device as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] Claim 1, in which the sealing means is provided by an inflatable first seal for engaging and retracting the incision and a second inflatable seal for sealing the lumen of the tube or sleeve bore.

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